Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12591 281042Z

44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

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R 280847Z SEP 73 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7107 INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 12591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, JA, LA

SUBJ: JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO FEOF

REF: A. STATE 189238; B. VIENTIANE 6621

SUMMARY: EMBOFF EXPLAINED USG THINKING OF FEOF TO FONOFF REP AND URGED FORTHCOMING GOJ RESPONSE. FONOFF REP CONFIRMED THAT GOJ HAS RECEIVED THREE REQUESTS FROM RLG CONCERNING FEOF. GOJ CONSIDERING RELEASE OF ADDITIONAL FEOF FUNDS (BEYOND \$ ONE MILLION) FOR VIENTIANE WATER PROJECT LOCAL COSTS. GOJ ALSO CONSIDERING ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO COMPENSATE FOR DOLAR DEVALUATION. GOJ NOT SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO HELP MEET 1973 SHORTFALL AT THIS TIME.

END SUMMARY.

1. DURING CONVERSATIONS SEPTEMBER 26 AND 28 WITH KAZUHARA, DEPUTY HEAD, FIRST SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISIOON, FONOFF, EMBOFF DREW ON REFTELS TO EXPLAIN USG THINKING ON FEOF, STRESSING VITAL IMPORTANCE OF ADDITIONAL GOJ CONTRIBUTIONS TO FEOF 1973 AND 1974.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 12591 281042Z

2. IN RESPONSE, KAZUHARA CONFIRMED THAT GOJ HAD RECEIVED

THREE REQUESTS FROM RLG CONCERNING FEOF CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROVIDED FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON STATUS OF EACH:

A. USE OF FEOF FUNDS FOR LOCAL COSTS OF VIENTIANE WATER DISTRIBUTION PROJECT. GOJ UNDERSTANDS THIS PROJECT WILL COST MORE THAN HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN ESTIMATED. GOJ HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM RLG FOR ADDITIONAL LOCAL COST FINANCING (BEYOND \$1 MILLION ALREADY PROMISED) AND IS CONSIDERING RELEASE OF ADDITIONAL FEOF FUNDS. HOWEVER, EVEN IF GOJ DECIDES TO MAKE ADDITIONAL RELEASE OF FEOF FUNDS FOR LOCAL COST FINANCING, AS REQUESTED, PRESENT THINKING IS THAT NO ADDITIONAL FEOF CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE MADE TO REPLENISH FEOF.

B. AN ADDITIONAL GOJ CONTRIBUTION TO FEOF TO COMPENGA SATE FOR EFFECTS OF DOLLAR DEVALUATION. KAZUHARA EXPLAINED THAT ITEM IN GOJ BUDGET FOR CONTRIBUTION TO FEOF IS IN YEN, ALTHOUGH ACTUAL CONTRIBUTION IS IN DOLLARS. DUE TO CURRENCY REALIGNMENT, NOT ALL OF APPROPRIATED YEN REQUIRED FOR AGREED DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION. THESE UNUSED YEN FUNDS, HOWVER, REVERT BY LAW TO TH BANK OF JAPAN. THUS, A NEW BUDGETARY REQUEST WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE SUCH A COMPNSATORY CONTRIBUTION. GOJ I CONSIDERING WHETHER TO MAKE SUCH A REQUEST.

C. ADDITIONAL FEOF CONTRIBUTION CY 1973 TO COMPENSATE FOR ANTICIPATED SHORTFALL. GOJ IS MAKING BEST EFFORTS TO SPEED UP REMAINING FEOF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS YEAR, KAZUHARA SAID, BUT GOJ HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT MAKING ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION. IN FIRST PLACE, HE SAID, ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION WOULD CAUSE FEOF TO EXCEED CEILING GREED ON BY DONORS, AND THIS SHOULD NOT BE DONE LIGHTLY. IN SECOND PLACE,

AND ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THIS GOL.

IN THIRD PLACE, GOJ FEARS ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON RLG SELF-HELP EFFORTS. IN RESPONSE TO CONFIDENTIAL

DONORS LONG TERM OBJECTIVE IS TO DECREASE SIZE OF FEOF,

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 12591 281042Z

EMBOFF'S FURTHER ARGUMENTS AND REBUTTALS (DRAWN FROM REFTEL B)

ZUHARA REPLIED THAT GOJ IS FULLY AWARE OF LAO-TIAN CIRCUMSTANCES. GOJ NOT SERIOUSLY THINKING OF ADDI-TIONAL CONTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME, BUT INTNDS TO AWAIT FORMATION OF NW GOVERNMENT. IF IT APPEARS THAT A COLLAPSE OF THE ECONOMY OR GOVERNMENT IS IMMINENT BECAUSE OF FEOF SHORTFALL, GOJ WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER AN ADDITION-

AL CONTRIBUTION.

3. CONCERNING POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO FEOF CY 1974, KAZUHARA SAI
GOR WOULD LIKE TO OBSERVE PERFORMANCE OF NEW
LAO GOVERNMENT AND ASCERTAIN ITS POLICIES TOWARDS FEOF.
IF NEW GOVERNMENT SHOULD REQUEST FEOF CONTRIBUTION, GOJ
WILL CONSIDER THE REQUEST, DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH OTHER
DONORS, AND DECIDE ITS POSITION.

4. IN PARTING, KAZUHARA NOTED WRYLY THAT USG IS URGING ADDITIONAL GOJ CONTRIBUTION CY 1973 AT SAME TIME USG SAYS IT UNLIKELY TO MAKE ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION ITSELF. INGERSOLL

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